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ABSTRACT

Recommendations and resolutions passed by the conference delegates are presented for each issue discussed in seven topic areas: (1) the real roles of the library; (2) present and future technologies; (3) responsibilities of the private sector, and the federal, regional and local governments; (4) library cooperation and networks; (5) library resources--buildings and collections; (6) copyright, and (7) the relationship among users, libraries, and the private sector. Also included are the resolutions submitted from the floor and from the grassroots workshop. (JVP)

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Resolutions

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services

as of April 27, 1978

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MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Issues and Recommendations Report

Resolutions from Scheduled Workshops - passed by the delegation

TOPIC AREA I

The Real Roles of the Library: What Should They Be?

Issue #1

How can the impact of libraries be measured or its benefits be demonstrated?

Policy Recommendation

1a. RESOLVED: That publicity and public education regarding existing library services and resources be increased.

Issue #2

How should libraries function as community resources, referral centers, educational institutions, in therapeutic and rehabilitative programs, and as agents of cultural change?

Policy Recommendations

2a. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services urge the expansion of library roles in order to reach those with special needs and non-users.

2b. RESOLVED: That the institutionalized have right of access to adequately funded library and information services.

2c. RESOLVED: That the governing boards of libraries be required to establish and monitor the changing goals of service appropriate to their constituencies based on documented needs. Such goals will then provide a checklist for the continuing assessment of the library's role in its community.

TOPIC AREA II

Present and Future Technologies

Issue #1

How should policy be set for the coordination of research?

Policy Recommendations

1a. RESOLVED: Given the rapid advance of technology, the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services calls for the White House Conference to initiate a national, and even international, information policy in such crucial fields as standards, funding, privacy, access, and information competency.

1b. RESOLVED: The Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services calls for legislation requiring bibliographic control of all printed publications produced by the Commonwealth, its counties, cities, towns and other agencies and providing for the establishment of a machine-readable data base of such documents readily accessible to users.

Issue #2

What should be the role of the Library of Congress?

Policy Recommendation

2a. RESOLVED: The Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services calls for the recognition and affirmation of the role and responsibilities of the Library of Congress as the center for bibliographic control and thus an essential component in an evolving national information network.

Issue #3

What are the barriers to the shared use of technology?

Policy Recommendation

3a. RESOLVED: The Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services calls for all state agencies to support activities related to the upgrading of staff, both professional and lay, in the use of new technologies in libraries.

TOPIC AREA III

Responsibilities of the Private Sector and the Federal, Regional and Local Governments.

Issue #1

What legislation is needed to enable libraries to implement all their desirable and feasible goals?

Policy Recommendations

1a. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services request the General Court of Massachusetts to fulfill its responsibilities for funding and developing library services of the highest quality among all publicly supported library institutions, including public school and academic libraries and those in state institutions.

1b. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services support House Bill 1278 in its original form.

Program Recommendations

1a. RESOLVED: That the Board of Education give immediate priority to the establishment of a Bureau of School Libraries, along with appropriate staffing and funding.

1b. RESOLVED: That the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandate standards for school libraries and media centers.

1c. RESOLVED: That, because tax financing of public libraries results in less adequate service for communities with the smallest tax bases, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should augment the present per capita state aid formula to provide for compensatory allocations to economically disadvantaged areas for the purpose of equalizing the quality of library services available throughout the state.

Issue #2

What should be the appropriate roles of federal, state, regional, city and town components of Massachusetts Library Systems, and what should be the appropriate roles of private institutions and private industry in those systems?

Policy Recommendations

2a. RESOLVED: That the Board of Library Commissioners should increase the monitoring of the development of financial resources for libraries and take an active role in keeping all Massachusetts libraries abreast of all federal, state and private funding resources, and provide staff assistance to aid individual librarians and interested citizens in the development of quality grant proposals.

Program Recommendations

2a. RESOLVED: That as a first step towards this state's effective participation in a national network of information services, the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services calls upon the Governor to appoint an administrative library commission to identify the library services that are the responsibilities of the federal, state and local level of government and to provide for the ways and means of funding these services.

2b. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services encourage the Research Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities to institute small grant programs for libraries.

TOPIC AREA IV
Library Cooperation and Networks

Issue #1
How should existing information systems and networks be coordinatedand strengthened?

Policy Recommendations

1a. RESOLVED: That health information be made available to all persons residing in the United States, and further that the National Library of Medicine's Regional Medical Library Network be additionally funded to provide access to health information for all.

Program Recommendation

1a. WHEREAS The bulk of support for library resources is at the local and institutional level, and

WHEREAS Given the fact that geographic , institutional and political boundaries mean nothing to the individual seeking information,

RESOLVED that

1. Systematic research and planning should take place on local, regional, state and national levels for sharing resources and services;

2. There be adequate federal aid to encourage, support and sustain intertype library cooperation;

3. Such cooperation consider existing networks and include an adequate needs assessment to avoid duplication;

4. Such federal aid should augment and enrich already funded programs at all levels; and

5. Such funding be made available to individual libraries, to state library agencies and to networks themselves.

1b. RESOLVED: That, as part of the implementation of court reform in this state, the county law libraries in the Commonwealth should be brought under the administration of the judicial branch and be funded as part of the judicial appropriation. Furthermore, RESOLVED: that those law libraries funded by public funds be available to the public.

TOPIC AREA V
Library Resources - Buildings and Collections

Issue #1
How do we identify and obtain additional resources?

Program Recommendation

1a. RESOLVED: That adequate federal and state funding for library facilities be made available to support the growth of library collections and their maintenance for optimum reader usability. And further be it RESOLVED that the "construction" portion (Title II) of the Library Services and Construction Act receive renewed funding, and further be it RESOLVED that the building, construction, renovation, and addition portions of Chapter 764, Acts of 1974, be funded.

Issue #2

How do we maintain and protect present library resources?

Policy Recommendation

2a. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services support the development of a national policy for the preservation of library materials; and that the Library of Congress, because it is already concerned with this issue, be charged with and properly funded for carrying out such a program.

TOPIC AREA VI

Copyright

Issue #1

How will the new copyright laws affect libraries and their users?

Program Recommendation

1a. RESOLVED: That state and national conferences designed to clarify the 1976 federal copyright law be convened.

TOPIC AREA VII

What should be the relationship among users, libraries and the private sector (publishers, media, producers, jobbers, manufacturers, and the broadcast networks)?

Issue #1

Should Massachusetts sponsor materials' evaluation and preview centers?

Policy Recommendation

1a. RESOLVED: That the state establish a system of regional previewing centers to facilitate the evaluation of non-print library materials and equipment before purchase.

Issue #2

Should libraries have a commitment to visual literacy?

Policy Recommendation

2a. RESOLVED: That libraries recommit themselves to the ideal of literacy, not only in its usual association with the printed word, but in an extended sense, to encompass facility in confronting non-print media as well.

Issue #3

How can print and non-print materials for special needs groups be stimulated?

Policy Recommendation

3a. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services stimulate the publication of materials in support of adult literacy and adult basic education programs, not only in English, but also in Spanish, Portuguese, French and other languages, such as sign language used by the deaf, used by a significant number of Massachusetts residents. Both print materials at very easy reading levels and high interest levels, and audio visual materials which meet adult informational needs are required.

Resolutions from the Grassroots Workshop Passed by the Delegation

TOPIC AREAS

Concerns of individuals gathering together and forming a Grassroots workshop

Issue #1

How can the needs of both users and nonusers of libraries and information services be assessed?

Program Recommendation

1a. WHEREAS The released survey does not address the needs of the total population,

RESOLVED: That public polling techniques should be employed to determine general public attitudes toward and concerns about library and information services, public and private, especially regarding the adequacy of their services in meeting the needs of the public and that the results be shared prior to the next meeting (of the Conference delegates).

Issue #2

How can libraries' policy-making bodies better serve the needs of their constituencies?

Policy Recommendation

2a. RESOLVED: That the policy-making body of all libraries include in its membership representatives of all segments of the population which it is designed to serve.

Issue #3

How can the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services continue to respond to the views of the voting delegates?

Policy Recommendation

3a. RESOLVED: That plans for the spring (1979) meeting (of the Governor's Conference) include a provision for new resolutions from the floor and for increased opportunity for creative interaction.

Issue #4

How can the rights of citizens to access to information be assured without increasing the federal budget?

Policy Recommendation

4a. WHEREAS The Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services considers it a human right for each citizen to have access to libraries and information services as a source of personal growth and community enrichment, THEREFORE

RESOLVED:

1. That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services calls for an allocation of federal funds for the human services of libraries and information services

2. The Massachusetts Governor's Conference asks that this allocation not cause an increase in present taxes, but that the present tax dollar be reallocated, and

3. That libraries be viewed as educational institutions and should be funded at levels commensurate with that role.

Resolutions Submitted from the Floor Passed by the Delegation

Issue #1

How can documented needs in the areas of library and media resources be fulfilled?

Program Recommendation

1a. RESOLVED: That the General Court of Massachusetts should provide funding at a level consistant with systematically documented needs to implement Section 19E of Chapter 78of the General Laws which established "a comprehensive statewide program for the improvement and development of library and media resources for all citizens." (Edward D. Pearce)

Issue #2

How can the needs of the physically handicapped for library and information services be better met?

Program Recommendation

2a. RESOLVED: That Chapter 6, Sections 129 and 130 of the Massachusetts General Laws should be amended by the addition of the physically handicapped to persons eligible for participation in the talking and braille book program operated by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind. (Gisela Titman)

Issue #3

How can public libraries meet the needs of deaf individuals?

Program Recommendation

3a. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners should seek necessary state funding for the installation of telecommunications equipment for handicapped users in public libraries throughout the state. (Dr. Richard Thompson)

THE FOLLOWING ARE RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE DELEGATION BUT NOT YET VOTED:

Submitted by the Grass-Roots Workshop (not voted)

1. Whereas the public library is a free public agency central to the citizen. Whereas the library has within its scope an entire realm of public and private information.

   BE IT RESOLVED that libraries have an obligation to encourage and promote citizen participation in political, financial and cultural affairs that affect the population.

2. RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Governor's Conference propose that federal money be set aside to investigate appropriate, low-cost technologies which are responsive to the information needs of local populations, for example: skills exchanges, personal computing networks and information referral services.

Submitted from the Floor (not voted)

1. RESOLVED that both federal and state agenciesinclude in their policy guidelines for the granting of funds for research and development of equipment or materials involving audio and/or visual components, consideration of specific requirements or criteria for the selection of grant awards. The awarding process should consider the immediate or ready applicationand accessibility for utilization by users with sensory or physical disabilities. This is to reduce or avoid unnecessary expenditures of funds for special modifications of such equipment and materials. (Martin Grossman)

Submitted from the Floor (not voted) - continued.

2. RESOLVED that all systems of technological applications to library services be designed to meet the needs of the print handicapped, as well as of the print reading majority, including braille reading access to computerized materials. (Dr. Nicholas Racheotes)

3. RESOLVED that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognize the major public libraries to be an educational resource of great importance to the citizens of the Commonwealth, AND that Chapter 78 of the General Laws (Chapter 764, Acts of 1974) be amended to include such recognition as an integral part of library legislation. (Ruby Dottin)

4. BE IT RESOLVED that library staff training programs aimed at dealing with disadvantaged people be provided and that librarians working in these areas be involved with the preparation of the training programs. (Ruby Dottin)

5. RESOLVED, that the publication of a complete, inexpensive, and readable edition of the classics of American literature be encouraged. (Elena Wilson)

6. RESOLVED: Boards of Trustees and Administrators of public libraries should involve community residents and representatives of community organizations in the decision-making process concerning budgets and programming through such means as, but not limited to, board and committees representation, public hearings, citizen review committees and citizen audit committees, starting, when appropriate, at the local branch level. (Helen LaVoie)

7. WHEREAS the bulk of support for library resources is at the local and institutional level, and WHEREAS given the fact that geographic, institutional, and political boundaries mean nothing to the individual seeking information, therefore be it RESOLVED (a) that systematic research and planning should take place on local, regional, state, and national levels for sharing resources and services; and (b) that public polling techniques should be employed to determine general public attitudes toward and concerns about library and information services, public and private, especially regarding the adequacy of their services in meeting the needs of the public; and (c) that libraries be viewed as educational institutions and should be funded at levels commensurate with that role. (Joseph Komidar)

8. RESOLVED: that the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pass a dedicated tax of one-quarter of one percent of the purchase price of new television sets to be allocated to publicly supported libraries to buy books. (Dan Pinck)

9. RESOLVED that public library boards and administrators should be accountable for their decisions to library users, who shall be encouraged to develop consumer involvement in library affairs, which affect their information needs. (Don Saklad)

Submitted from the Floor (not voted) - continued

10. RESOLVED: that the Massachusetts Governor's Conference urge Congress to appropriate such sums as are authorized under Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act, for the purpose of providing aid to public libraries for improving facility accessibility and energy conservation. (Martin Grossman)

11. RESOLVED: that the library association take on the plight of the unserved gifted child and provide challenging activities of many forms in public and school libraries. (Kathleen Klaes)

The Following Resolutions Were Voted Down by the Delegation

TOPIC AREA II
Present and Future Technologies

Vetoed: If it is accepted that information is a national resource, then the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services calls for the committment to and endorsement of free access by individuals to all forms of information.

TOPIC AREA III
Responsibilities of the Private Sector and the Federal, Regional and Local Governments

Vetoed: RESOLVED: that school libraries should be returned to the overall control of the Board of Library Commissioners.

Vetoed: RESOLVED: that the state of Massachusetts should provide an accredited program in library science through its academic institutions of higher learning.